QZ LD11504

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Zeng et al.

Serial Number:

09/683,853

Filed:

Feb. 22, 2002

Examiner: Group Art Unit: C. Lopez

1731 OPTICAL FIBER DEPOSITION TUBE FUSED IN DEUTERIUM ATMOSPHERE

FOR ATTENUATION IMPROVEMENT

Mail Stop NON-FEE Amendment Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2003, please amend the aboveidentified application without prejudice as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Claims 24-28 are newly added. The fee for the additional claims is \$158 (1 independent claim, and 4 dependent claims). Please withdraw funds from our Deposit Account Number 50-2339. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit for overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2339.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

Attached please also find a request for an extension of time of one month under the provision of 37 C.F.R. 1.136.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on March / 2004, with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop NON-FEE Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date March 1, 2004

Hanh T. Pham